LIBRARY

ETON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1938

To the Chairman and Members of the Eton Urban District Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the Sanitary Circumstances and Administration, and the Vital Statistics of your District for the year 1938.

I regret that in common with many other Public Health Departments, it has not been found possible to prepare this report earlier owing to the great additional burden of work placed upon me throughout 1939 in connection with the organisation of the A.R.P. Casualty Services and Evacuation. Furthermore, as Medical Officer of Health of three District Councils there are three separate and distinct Annual Reports to compile each year.

Owing to the late appearance of this report, it must be appreciated that it can serve only as a record for the year under review and that changes which have taken place since 1938 render out of date certain of the information contained therein.

Section A.

Statistics & Social Conditions of the Area

Area.....	1410 acres.
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)1938.	3958
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938).....	755
Rateable Value.....	£41163
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£168

Vital Statistics

Live Births.

TOTAL	37	Male	21	Female	16
Legitimate	35	"	19	"	16
Illegitimate.....	2	"	2	"	-

Still Births

TOTAL ..... 2 ..... Male 1 ..... Female 1

Legitimate ..... 2 ..... " 1 ..... " 1

Illegitimate ..... - ..... " - ..... " -

Birth Rate per 1000 Population 9.4
Birth Rate per 1000 excluding Boys at Eton College..... 12.9
(Birth Rate per 1000 England & Wales ..... 15.1)

Still Birth Rate per 1000 Population 0.506
National Rate 0.60
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total births 51.30

Deaths

TOTAL ..... 26 ..... Male 14 ..... Female 12

Death Rate per 1000 Population 6.6

Corrected Death Rate for Age and Sex Distribution 8.3

(Death Rate per 1000 England & Wales ..... 11.6)

Of the 26 deaths, 5 were aged 70 or over, and 6 were between 80 and 90 years of age.

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth . nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age ... Male 0 .... Female 0

Infant Mortality Rate ..... nil
(Rate for England & Wales ..... 53)

Deaths from Measles ..... nil
" " Whooping Cough ..... nil
" " Diarrhoea ..... nil

Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	1	4
Syphilis	1	0	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	1	4	5
Heart Disease	2	2	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	0	1	1
Other Circulatory disease	2	0	2
Bronchitis	0	1	1
Appendicitis.....	0	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	0	1
Acute & Chronic Nephritis	1	0	1
Other Violence	2	0	2
Other Defined Causes	0	2	2
All causes	14	12	26

There has been no unusual or excessive sickness or mortality during the year.

Section B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health

V.A.T.Spong, M.B., B.S.,(Lond:), D.P.H., M.R.C.S.(Eng:), L.R.C.P.,(Lond:), also Medical Officer of Health for Slough Urban and Eton Rural Districts, Assistant County Medical Officer Bucks County Council, Medical Superintendent Eton Joint Hospital (Whole-time).

F.M.Day, M.R.C.S.,(Eng:), L.R.C.P.,(Lond:), D.P.H., D.T.M., Assistant County Medical Officer, Bucks County Council. Deputises for the Medical Officer of Health during his absence on annual leave and on alternate week-ends and evenings of alternate weeks. In return for these Services, the Medical Officer of Health acts as Assistant County Medical Officer for School and Maternity and Child Welfare work in Slough.

Surveyor & Engineer & Sanitary Inspector

E.F.Pressey, P.A.S.I., M.R.San.I., (Whole-time).

2. Nursing in the Home

(a) A Queen's Nurse and Midwife is resident in the District.

(b) There is no arrangement in force for the home nursing of cases of Infectious Diseases.

3. Laboratory Facilities

All laboratory work is carried out by the Clinical Research Association of which the Council is a Member. During the year 13 specimens were sent for examination for the presence of Diphtheria Bacilli - of these 11 were negative.

4. Legislation in Force

Adoptive Acts and Byelaws

Adoptive Acts:-

Sections Unrepealed by Public Health Act 1936 of:-

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1907

Byelaws:-

Slaughter-houses.

Common Lodging-houses.

New Streets and Buildings.

Cleansing of Footways.

Removal of House Refuse.

Prevention of Nuisances.

Keeping of Animals.

5. Hospital Services

(a) King Edward Vll Hospital, Windsor, is available for all cases other than infectious diseases.

(b) Eton Joint Hospital at Cippenham for Infectious Diseases both Notifiable and Non-Notifiable which require treatment in hospital.

(c) The Saunderton Sanatorium near Princes Risborough for cases of Small-Pox.

6. Ambulance Facilities

(a) For Infectious Cases the Eton Urban District by agreement with the Eton Joint Hospital Board have the use of the Motor Ambulance stationed at the Eton Joint Hospital.

(b) For Non-Infectious Cases an ambulance can be requisitioned either from the St.John Ambulance Headquarters at Slough or from the Slough Police Station.

7. Clinics and Treatment Centres

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Church Hall, High Street, Eton, and meets on the first and third Tuesdays in each month. There is also a Clinic held at the Institute at Eton Wick. Dr. Day attends as Medical Officer on the third Tuesday at the Church Hall, and on the first Friday at the Institute, Eton Wick, in addition to the District Nurses and Voluntary helpers.

The Centres are under the supervision of the Bucks County Council, and managed by a Voluntary Committee of Ladies.

No death was recorded of an infant under one year of age, the Infantile Mortality Rate is therefore nil. The rate for England and Wales being 53.

(b) Tuberculosis

A Clinic provided by the County Council is held on the first, second and fourth Tuesdays in each month at Alpha Street, Slough, where the County Tuberculosis Officer sees cases from this District sent there by the local Medical Practitioners.

(c) School Clinics

School children receive attention by the District Nurse every school morning at the Church Hall, High Street, Eton.

Section C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1.(i) Water The Windsor Corporation Waterworks provide a constant supply throughout the district, which has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. An extension 500 yards long was made from the supply to an outlying farm in the West Ward.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage There has been no extension of the sewers or alteration in the method of disposal, which is carried out on the broad irrigation principle at the Council's sewage farm at Eton Wick.

The Sewerage Scheme for the West Ward was approved by the Minister during the year and the work was commenced in September. At present the majority of the buildings in this Area drain into cesspools which are not altogether satisfactory owing to leakage and insufficient capacity. They are emptied as required by a Contractor employed by the Council. Houses without cesspools have pail closets, the contents of which are disposed of in the gardens. 462 visits to 118 cesspools were made during the year. Contents are disposed of at the sewage farm.

2. Rivers and Streams

There has been no evidence of pollution of rivers or streams during the year, but a sample of the Thames water supplying two open-air bathing pools showed that bacteriologically the water was not of the standard considered desirable for a bathing water.

5. (i) Closet Accommodation With the exception of the West Ward where there are 124 cesspools and 24 pail closets, all houses have the water carriage system - no conversions were carried out during the year.

(ii) Public Cleansing The method of collection of house refuse is by covered horse-drawn carts, each house being visited once weekly - in a number of cases two visits a week are made. The refuse is disposed of by incineration in the destructor at the Council's Pumping Station.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Number of Inspections made	12
" " Nuisances found	8
" " " remedied by service of informal notices	8
" " " remedied by service of formal notice	nil

(iv) Shops 20 shops were inspected during the year and attention of the Shop Keepers drawn to the provisions of Section 10 Shops'Act 1934, which relates to the Health and Comfort of the workers.

(v) Smoke Abatement No nuisance from smoke during the year.

(vi) Swimming Baths and Pools There are two open-air swimming pools on tributaries of the Thames, one is private and the other public. Samples of the water were taken during the Summer and the analysis showed that the water was not of the standard of bacterial purity considered desirable for a swimming pool.

(vii) Eradication of Bed Bugs

1. (a)	Number of Council houses infested	0
(b)	" " Other houses infested	1
(c)	" " Council houses dis-infested	0
(d)	" " Other houses dis-infested	1

2. The house was dis-infested by Messrs. Newton Chambers' "Zaldecide" method.

3 No investigation of tenants' belongings before entering Council houses was considered necessary.

4. The work of dis-infestation in private houses is carried out by a private contractor under supervision of the Council.

5. The Sanitary Inspector advises and supervises to

prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.

4. Schools

There are two elementary schools in the District. The Eton Porny School has Town water supply and sanitary accommodation on the water carriage system. The Eton Wick School has pail closets which will no doubt be converted when the Sewerage Scheme in this area is completed. The water for this School is from the Town source.

5. Miscellaneous

Controlled Premises

Type.	Number in District	Number Registered.	Number of Inspections made
Bakehouses	3	3	4
Slaughterhouses	1	1	2
Cow-keepers	8	8	15
Dairymen(including Milk Retailers)	14	14	10

Outworkers The latest list of Outworkers shows 28 persons engaged with five firms on tailoring work.

Section D

HOUSING

Two Clearance Orders were confirmed during the year, and the new houses to accommodate the persons displaced are about to be built.

Houses erected during 1938

Houses built by the Local Authority ..... nil
" " " private enterprise 13

Housing Statistics for 1938

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..128

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 207

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations,1925 118

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 140

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 99

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 79

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners 0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners 0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding:

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 4

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 4

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 26

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 0

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 0

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 0

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. 0

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer may consider it desirable to report:- 0

Section E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply The condition of the cowsheds of the district are satisfactory. One shed has been rebuilt.

There are 7 supplementary milk licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936, in force in the district.

The accredited milk supply from the Council's farm still continues to be of a high standard.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

All the meat consumed in the district is slaughtered outside the Urban area. No meat was found to be unfit for human consumption.

There were no killings in the district during the year.

Details of Inspectiom

Drainage and Sewerage

New Drainage work	41
Nuisance from disused privies	1
Defective drains	3
Blocked drains	1

Factories and Workshops

Daily removal of accumulated refuse	10
Weekly cleansing of floors	12
Limewashing required	19
Thermometers required	24
Ventilation required	6
Dirty workshops	1
Staircase, handrail required	4
Advice to Owner on provisions of Act	1
Escapes from fire	1
Advice re fire alarm	1

Cowsheds and Dairies

Limewashing required	2
Dirty sheds	4
Dirty Milkers	3
New drainage work	1

Miscellaneous

Interviews with property owners and builders	12
Dampness in houses	3
Sample of well water taken	1

Sample of water from Swimming Pool	1
Overcrowding investigated	2
Defective chimneys	2
Bug Infestation	2
Stream pollution	1
Dirty house	1

Housing

Yards require paving	6
Water butt required	1
External walls - pointing	14
Dampness	79
Ceilings defective	6
Chimney stacks defective	4
Coppers defective	10
Rainwater gutters and downpipes defective	11
Roofs defective	7
External brickwork defective	27
Windows not opening	2
Floors defective	30
Windows too small in area	8
Rooms with no direct access to external air	3
Outbuildings defective	1
Windows defective	10
Sinks defective	5
Dustbin required	1
Stair handrail required	9
Unventilated larders	2
Unventilated W.C. building	2
Drain gullies inside building	2
Insufficient air space at rear of house	1
Internal walls defective	4
Stairtreads defective	2
Grates defective	1
External door defective	1

Section F

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1938
(other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small-Pox	-	-	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	1	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1	-
Erysipelas	1	1	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	-	-

Of the three cases of Scarlet Fever, two occurred in January and February in boys attending Eton College, and the third, a girl aged 7, attended a school in Windsor and occurred in May.

The two cases of Diphtheria occurred in March and July - a boy of 9 and a girl of 11.

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, but under the County Council's scheme, parents who so desire, may have their children protected from Diphtheria by Immunisation at the Welfare Clinic free of charge.

No primary vaccination nor re-vaccination was performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-Pox Prevention) Regulations.

There are no facilities for cleansing verminous persons. Disinfection of premises and articles after the notifiable infectious diseases is carried out by formalin fumigation, where considered necessary, steam disinfection of infected articles is carried out in the Washington-Lyons Steam Disinfector at the Joint Isolation Hospital.

Prevention of Blindness

No action has been necessary under section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Tuberculosis

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

New Cases and Mortality

During the year 2 notifications were received of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, a male aged 45 years, and a female aged 30 years. 4 deaths were recorded, all Respiratory, 3 males aged 45, 39 and 30, and 1 in a female aged 1 year - of these 2 had not been previously notified.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

V.A.T.SPONG, M.B.,B.S.,
D.P.H., & etc.,